*MAKING CONNECTIONS IN ARTS INTEGRATION*

**How can we develop lessons that allow students to use an art form to construct and demonstrate understanding of another subject area?**

When developing unit or lesson plans, we select and scaffold activities to guide students towards a set of goals and objectives. Most activities involve knowledge, skills and habits of mind common to many subject areas. Therefore, we can use such common knowledge, skills and habits of mind to make connections between an art form and another area of the curriculum.

We should not confuse arts integration with “arts hitching” - term coined by Karen Erickson, an Educator from Chicago. Arts hitching describe the “use of an arts activity in conjunction with an academic subject, without any conscious effort to teach arts skills or understanding.

Below are some ways to integrate the arts into the study of other subject areas. These diagrams are based on a handout produced by Karen Erickson for the “Straight A’s Summer Institute 2012”, Birmingham City Schools, AL.

In all three cases, each subject’s objectives and standards are covered equally.

When the lesson revolves around a big idea (last diagram):

* The arts and non-arts disciplines mutually support and enhance each other
* Students use the arts as one of their modes of expression
* The result is high-quality work that are the fusion of arts and non-arts disciplines



1.

2.

3.